

# Lake Mead

## Environmental Education

National Recreation Area  
National Park Service



### Grade 4 - Field Program

### *"The Future of the Past"*

<b>Theme</b>	Archaeological resources occur in many areas of Lake Mead NRA. However, because of their often fragile and irreplaceable nature, they need to be respected and protected so that future generations of visitors and archaeologists can enjoy and learn from them.
<b>Objectives</b>	Students will identify fragile archaeological resources and sources of impact. Students will describe the changes, over time, in society's attitudes about cultural resources and recent American legislation to protect them. Students will describe the repercussions of damage to our archaeological resources.
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<u>ARPA</u> - Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 (amended in 1988 to increase punishment of vandals) <u>artifact</u> - human-made or modified object <u>context</u> - an artifact's relationship (orientation, depth, position) to other elements of a site <u>preservation</u> - the collection of actions that keep a resource intact and free from degradation for the purpose of study and enjoyment by future generations
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Archaeological resources are material remains of past human life or activities. The objects may be ancient or recent. Archaeological resources, include (but are not limited to): pottery, basketry, bottles, weapons, projectile points, tools, structures, rock art, graves, human remains, or any piece of these items. An archaeological site is a place where human activity has occurred and material remains were left.</p> <p>Many prehistoric cultures have left traces of their existence in the Southwest. By being left undisturbed in the places where their creator culture left them, some artifacts have survived to our time. These artifacts are valuable because they portray the remaining evidence of cultures that existed or the history of those that still exist. If artifacts are examined in context, their relationship to overall activities at the site may be discovered. Several sources of impact threaten to damage these relationships and destroy such priceless artifacts altogether.</p>
<b>Before the Field Trip activity</b>	Have your students create a time capsule packing list. Discuss importance of each element before adding it to the list and bring the list with you to Lake Mead NRA.
<b>After the Field Trip activity</b>	Discuss with your students where artifacts should go? (homes, tribes, museums, universities, etc.)

***Making A Difference!*** Your students can begin to make a difference wherever they live! Have your class come up with a project using the experience from their field trip to Lake Mead National Recreation Area to show others that they care about their desert community.